

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00856 030237Z  
ACTION ARA-14

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-----019359 032256Z /75  
R 022035Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4419

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 856

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT: NAVY CAPTAINS GOMEZ AND MONTEMAYOR

REF: STATE 26684

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH CAPTAINS JOAQUIN GOMEZ AND ENRIQUE MONTEMAYOR AT THEIR REQUEST THROUGH A PERSONAL CONTACT ON JANUARY 31. (MEMCON WILL BE SENT SEPARATELY.) BOTH GOMEZ AND MONTEMAYOR ARE ACTIVE DUTY NAVAL OFFICERS, CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE NAVY SECRETARY-GENERAL'S STAFF IN POLITICAL-LABOR AFFAIRS. (THIS WOULD PUT THEM UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL ADMIRAL EDUARDO FRACASSI AND GIVE THEM CLOSE ACCESS TO ADMIRAL MASSERA.)
2. IN TALKS WITH EMBOFF, THE TWO OFFICERS WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THEIR MEETINGS WITH AMERICANS WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, EMPHASIZING INSTEAD THEIR CONTACTS WITH ARGENTINE NAVAL OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. AND THEIR VISIT TO RECUPERATING ADMIRAL GUZZETTI. THE TWO NAVAL OFFICERS APPARENTLY DID CALL ON ARGENTINE ADMIRALS MENDIA AND FITTE WHILE IN WASHINGTON. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM AN OFFICIAL IN THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENCY THAT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS NOT AWARE OF GOMEZ AND MONTEMAYOR'S VISIT AND THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA WAS ANNOYED WHEN HE FOUND OUT LATER.)

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 00856 030237Z

3. TALKING TO EMBOFF, GOMEZ AND MONTEMAYOR EMPHASIZED THREE THEMES: THE NAVY'S CONCERN WITH THE ECONOMIC PLAN WHICH THEY BELIEVE IS MOVING TOO SLOWLY TO SATISFY THE GENERAL POPULATION; THE NAVY'S CONCERN THAT FAILURE OF THE JUNTA SUCCESSFULLY TO RUN THE COUNTRY COULD LEAD TO THE RISE OF A DEMAGOGUE (NO NAMES WERE MENTIONED); AND THE NAVY'S POSITION IN FAVOR OF THE FOURTH MAN. THEY DID NOT DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS NOR THE KAREN

DE YOUNG ARTICLE, WHICH THEY CLAIMED THEY HAD NOT SEEN  
EXCEPT FOR A BRIEF EXCERPT IN THE BAHIA BLANCA NEWSPAPER  
NUEVA PROVINICA.

4. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT GOMEZ AND MONTEMAYOR EXCEPT THAT  
THEY HAVE HELD SIGNIFICANT NAVAL POSITIONS IN THE PAST.  
GOMEZ SERVED AS AIDE TO THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS IN  
THE MID-1960'S. MONTEMAYOR WAS APPARENTLY NAVAL ATTACHE  
TO PARAGUAY IN 1973-74 AND WORKED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS STAFF LAST YEAR UNTIL HIS APPARENT  
RECENT TRANSFER TO THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL.  
CASTRO

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## Message Attributes

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